



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330



, KING, JR.
ERNOR

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
January 2, 2002

MINUTES

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), Jim McKenney, Robert Ashby, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Carol Pillsbury, Wayne Werts, Steve Leach, Peter DiPietrantonio, Kevin Kendall, Alan Azzara, Sue Young, Oden Cassidy

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Dawn Kinney, Drexell White, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

1. Introductions

Sue Young, RN, was introduced to the Board as the new member representing emergency nurses. Sue is an emergency department nurse at Waldo County Hospital, Belfast, and has been an active member of the Emergency Nurses Association and Mid Coast EMS Council.

2. Approval of November 7, 2001, meeting minutes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 7, 2001, meeting as distributed. (Dunwoody; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

3. Old Business – none.

4. New Business

a. Investigation Committee

MOTION: To ratify the minutes of the October 3, 2001, meeting of the Investigations Committee. (Dunwoody; second by McKenney). Unanimous

b. Operations Team Action Items

The January Operations Team meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8, 2002. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

c. Rules Revision

On November 28, the Committee met and continued its work. The next meeting will be on January 23 and be an all day session focusing on air ambulance rules. Once the discussion and draft of the air ambulance section has been completed, work will commence on issues relating to the removal of service sponsorship as a licensing condition and other housekeeping rule changes.

d. EMT-Paramedic Curriculum

Steve Leach reviewed the work that this sub committee has done in reviewing the differences between the current EMT-Paramedic program and the revised National Standard Curriculum (NSC). It was noted that while this will result in changes to some programs, several paramedic programs currently meet or exceed the NSC. The NSC was reviewed and discussed by the Operations Team and several suggestions were made to the draft report before reporting back to the Board. One request from Ops was that there be a stated review time and process to assess the NSC. Steve indicated that the sub committee agreed and Daryl Boucher is drafting the review criteria.

Jim McKenney reported that Aroostook EMS has concerns about the impact of the minimum hour requirements for clinical objectives.

MOTION: To adopt the revised National Standard Curriculum for EMT-Paramedic training, effective September 1, 2002 (Leach; second by Doughty). Carried with one abstention (Cassidy)

MOTION: To not adopt the revised NSC EMT-Intermediate curriculum at this time, but to direct that the Education Committee update the EMT-I curriculum to include the enhancements that have been made, and to create a bridge program for EMT-I to EMT-P. (Leach; second by Doughty). Unanimous.

e. North East Air Ambulance License

Drexell reviewed the process that was used to review an application from North East Mobile Health Services for a fixed wing, paramedic air transfer, license. The application was found complete and approved by staff, but was not formally presented to the Board for discussion and approval as required.

MOTION: To approve the application submitted by North East Mobile Health Services for a Paramedic Air Transfer license. (Dunwoody; second by McKenney). Unanimous

f. Legislative Activity

Jay reported that although there have been budget cuts and reduction discussions, at this time there has been no expressed intention to reduce the level of funding to MEMS. The Departmental cuts have so far been absorbed in other areas.

Regarding legislative bills, there is an LD submitted by Rep. Goodwin that will expand the membership of the Washington County EMS Authority to include neighboring towns. The State Planning Office is the lead agency on this bill and MEMS is not taking a position, but is not opposed to the bill as drafted.

A carry over bill regarding service sponsorship as a condition of EMS licensing will have a hearing on January 7. MEMS will testify in support of the bill and thank the Committee for their willingness to carry this bill forward and allow the Board to complete its work and report back.

A new bill dealing with the administration of Epinephrine by basic EMTs is being presented by Rep. David Trahan. This is similar to another bill that was submitted and defeated in the 1st Regular Session (2001). Jay will be meeting with Rep Trahan to discuss the specifics of his bill and the concerns of MEMS and the MDPB.

g. Conducting hearings

Laura Yustak Smith explained the disciplinary process and the Board's adjudicatory role. Several changes have occurred in recent years, including most recently a statutory change that makes the Board's decision the final decision of the Department (previously, the Board's decision was a recommendation to the Commissioner). As such, effective with this change, an appeal of the Board's decision goes directly to Superior Court.

Attorney Yustak Smith also briefly discussed some of the disciplinary options available to the Board and responded to a number of questions from members. At a future meeting, she will provide information on the Maine Court System and the classification of crimes.

h. Other

i. Death Benefits

MEMS has been meeting with the State Police and the Fire Marshal's office to discuss the draft language for rules that would govern the payments authorized for line of duty deaths by EMS, fire, and law enforcement officers. Since there are many areas of overlap in the rulemaking process, Drexell White will be the lead person and file the necessary paperwork on behalf of all three bureaus. The rule making directive and funding for this were provided during the 1st Regular Legislative session (2001).

ii. Board Terms

Jay reminded Oden Cassidy and Dr. DiPietrantonio that their terms are expiring and if they are interested in being considered for another term, a letter must be sent to the Governor's office.

5. Staff Reports

a. Office

- i. GEA Hearings are being scheduled for both the Health and Human Services Committee and Criminal Justice. This review process is defined in Maine statute for all Departments, agencies, and bureaus. Copies of the Department's GEA report were previously distributed to Board members. Once a date/time has been scheduled, Jay will notify Board members, Regional Coordinators, and others who are interested in attending.
- ii. EMSC Grant – application was submitted for Year 3 Partnership Grant, MEMS awaiting notification.
- iii. JoMEMS – Jay explained the challenges that are being encountered with getting the Journal of Maine EMS published in a timely manner. It has been difficult to get articles and activity reports submitted for many months. Jay will be meeting with Kerry Pomelow, editor, and Medical Care Development, publishers, to see what can be done to improve matters.
- iv. Bioterrorism Conference – work is underway for an EMS Bioterrorism Conference to be held at the Augusta Civic Center. Maine Emergency Management Agency has agreed to fund the conference which will be focused on providing information to EMS, EMA, dispatchers, and hospital personnel. The National Guard 11th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) will be on hand to provide demonstrations and conduct Terrorism Awareness training.

- v. Licensing Program – MEMS is in the process of upgrading the software used for licensing functions. The existing software dates back to 1987 and the many changes in programming and technology have made this version outdated both in terms of features and technical support. Upgrading this program is part of the multi-year process to enable online licensing and information.
 - b. MDPB – Dr. Burton was unable to attend; however, Dr. Kendall reported that work on the protocols is anticipated to be completed in January. The next MDPB meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2002.
 - 6. Other – none at this time
- Adjourned at 11:00.